

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY  
SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Production of Cardboard Canisters for Wismut A.G.	DATE DISTR.	19 November 1953
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	2
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD 50X1-HUM
		REFERENCES	

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

50X1-HUM

1. In about January 1950, VEB Sturmlaternenwerk Beierfeld (Erzgeb.) received an order from Wismut A.G. for impregnated cardboard canisters, complete with metal lids. It later became known that these canisters were being used for the transport of uranium ore and concentrate.
2. In March 1950, the Beierfeld firm subcontracted part of the order to Clemens Becker K.G. of Aue. The Becker firm started manufacturing the canisters in March and April 1950 and was in full production by August 1950. The factory continued to produce them until January 1952, when reduced rates for the work compelled its owners to refuse to continue.
3. The Beierfeld firm also subcontracted part of its order to Junghans Soehne of Rittersgruen/Erzgebirge. It is believed that Junghans started production somewhat earlier than Becker, in about January 1950, and that they were still manufacturing them in May 1953.
4. It is believed that similar canisters were made by the firm, Groitzsch, Leipzig,<sup>1</sup> for Wismut A.G. before the Beierfeld factory received its contract. It is believed that Groitzsch then stopped production.
5. In May 1953, the main center of production was rumored to be in Gera. It is believed that Beierfeld has reduced its output and is producing cardboard miners' helmets. VEB Sturmlaternenwerk Beierfeld also manufactures cardboard ventilation ducts for Wismut A.G. These ducts are 1.5 meters long by about 35 cms. diameter. It is believed that the factory is required to deliver 10 kms. length per month.
6. VEB Papiergefaessefabrik Kleinmachnow makes canisters of similar design but other dimensions. It is almost certain that this factory has not manufactured any for Wismut A.G.
7. The Beierfeld firm is believed to have contracted to deliver 120,000 to 150,000 canisters monthly. Of this total quantity, Beierfeld subcontracted 60,000 monthly

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC	X				
-------	---	------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	---	--	--	--	--

(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

50X1-HUM

- 2 -

to Junghans and 30,000 monthly to Becker. A director of the Beierfeld firm stated at one time that he was finding it difficult, if not impossible, to fulfil the agreed delivery quotas. Beierfeld several times tried to get Becker to agree to increase its quota from 1,000 daily to 1,200 daily.

8. During the first few weeks of production, Becker made canisters of 327 mm. in diameter by about 650 mm. in height. From April 1950 on, all canisters made for this order were of 280 mm. internal diameter and 420 mm. height. The cardboard walls were 5 mm. thick. Two lid-like metal discs were inserted face to face and secured with rivets at the bottom. A similar disc and a metal lid were provided loose for the top. The metal discs and lids were 3 mm. thick.
9. It is not known how much Beierfeld received for the canisters. The subcontractors were provided with all the necessary raw materials and were paid only for the labor. They received 1.84 eastmarks per canister, and 52 eastmarks per thousand lids.
10. Canisters made in Beierfeld were stamped inside for identification purposes "B", those made by Becker "A" (for Aue), and those made by Junghans "R" (for Rittersgruen).
11. The Beierfeld firm collected the canisters from the subcontractors. Wismut A.G. collected them from Beierfeld by truck. They were collected at irregular intervals. On one occasion (about July 1951), so many were stored at Beierfeld that Becker was requested to cease production for about six weeks.

50X1-HUM

Comment: Probably identical with VEB Hartpapierwerk Groitzsch, Groitzsch near Leipzig.

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

50X1-HUM

**Page Denied**